



Wildlife Works Helps Protect Forests and Wildlife While Providing Employment in Kenya

Challenges

- Global destruction of forests is reducing the ability of the earth to absorb greenhouse gases and is a major contributor to global warming.
- Wildlife Works needed to validate their new methodology for reducing deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).
- The company also wanted to facilitate sustainability initiatives such as reducing deforestation and providing economic development opportunities at their Kasigau Corridor REDD project in Kenya.

Response

- DNV helped Wildlife Works validate the REDD methodology according to the Verified Carbon Standard.
- DNV also helped validate and verify the project with the Verified Carbon Standard as well as the Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCBA) Standard, where it met Gold Level criteria for exceptional climate, community and biodiversity benefits.

Benefits

- Over 500,000 acres of Kenyan forest and a crucial wildlife migration corridor will be protected.
- The project will provide alternative sustainable development opportunities for over 100,000 residents in the Kasigau Corridor, including a wide variety of jobs and community projects.
- This is the world's first Verified Carbon Standard REDD mega-project, with more than one million tons of avoided annual greenhouse gas emissions over a 30-year period.
- The project is the first in the world to issue verified carbon units with a CCBA label.



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The Story

Deforestation not only contributes significantly to global warming, but also results in loss of habitat for wildlife. One region at risk of deforestation is the Kasigau Corridor in Kenya, a 500,000 acre wildlife corridor that is home to several hundred species of mammals and birds, many of which are threatened or endangered.

Wildlife Works is the world's leading project development and management company specializing in reducing emissions through the United Nations Collaborative Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). The company designed a REDD project in the Kasigau Corridor that benefits not only the environment and biodiversity through conservation efforts, but also brings sustainable benefits to local communities in the form of job creation, education and direct financial rewards.

The company developed a new methodology for calculating avoided greenhouse gas emissions from REDD projects that is less complex and greatly shortens the time required to implement a project, using their Kasigau Corridor REDD project as a model. Wildlife Works wanted to have this new methodology validated under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS).

Wildlife Works asked DNV to conduct the validation due to DNV's expertise in international validation and verification projects and also because of DNV's growing presence in the REDD market.

DNV was able to conduct the methodology validation within one month, an unusually rapid turnaround time considering that far less complex methodologies take an average of three to six months to validate. Once the methodology was approved by VCS, Wildlife Works wanted to have their project certified under both the VCS and Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance's (CCBA) standards, and were hoping to receive a coveted Gold Level certification from CCBA.

CCBA certification requires that projects use best practices and deliver significant climate community and biodiversity impacts, and Gold Level certification requires that projects meet these objectives in an "exceptional" manner. DNV helped Wildlife Works validate and verify the project under both VCS and CCBA Gold Level standards. As a result of the project, the highly-threatened forests and wildlife in the Kasigau Corridor will be protected, and over 100,000 people living in the area will receive significant benefits from the resulting carbon credits.

Local residents will receive training and permanent employment in forest and biodiversity protection and monitoring, along with a variety of other jobs. The project also supports the development of small businesses such as a clothing factory and soap manufacturing. Wildlife Works is also establishing a trust to ensure that the funds received from the carbon credits will be transparently disbursed into community projects.

Founded in 1864, DNV adopted its mission to safeguard life, property and the environment ninety years later in 1974. To meet that mission, DNV offers risk-based environmental and safety services, including verification, validation and certification as well as advisory services that ensure credibility and technical rigor. DNV's offerings in the sustainability area provide trusted advice to businesses in their pursuit of maximizing shareholder value and stakeholder trust. With 9,000 staff in 300 offices across 100 countries, DNV is the premier global provider of integrated strategic, operational and technical services.



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